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REPORT

OF THE

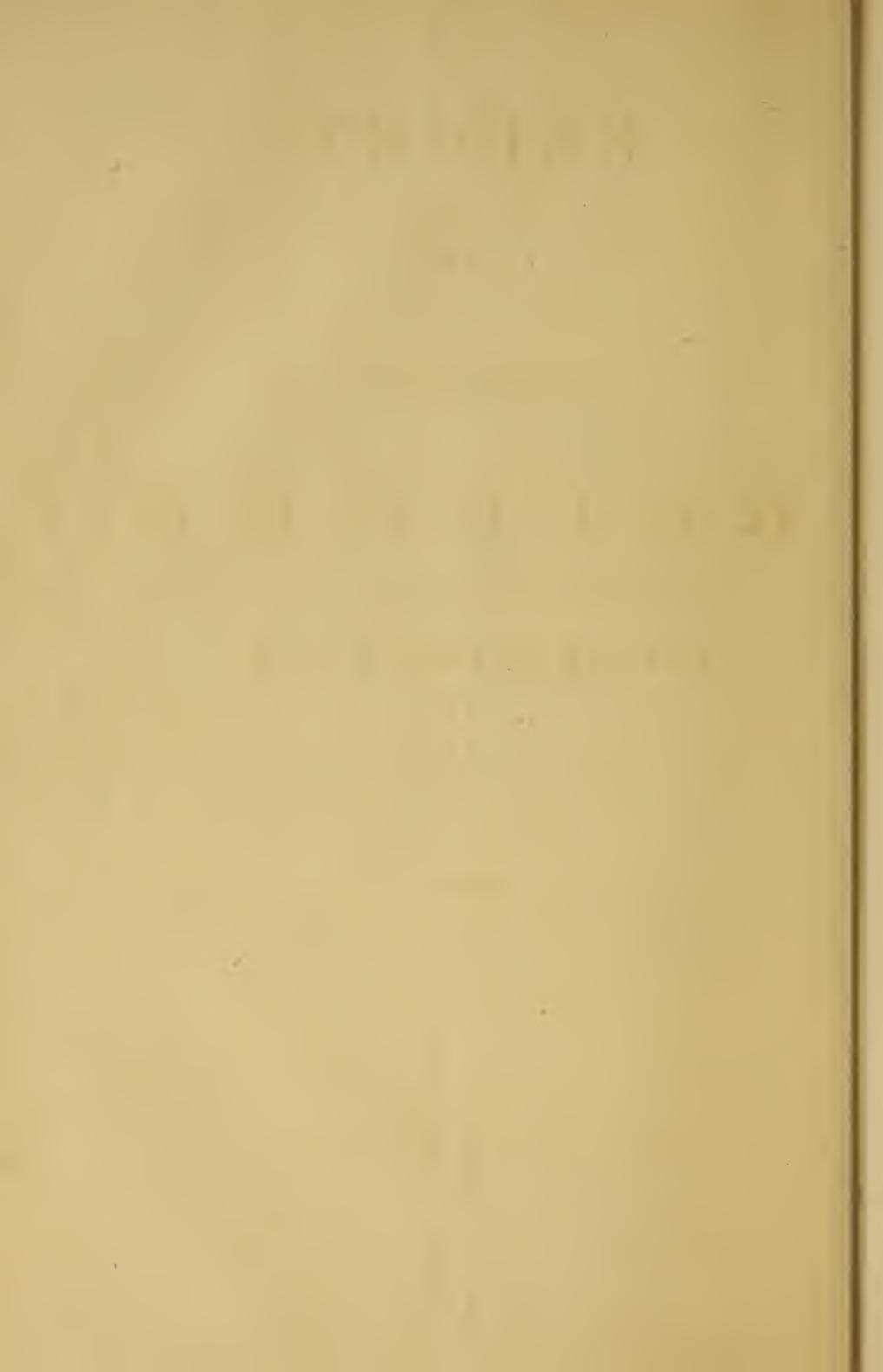
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LOUISVILLE

REFUGEE

COMMISSION.

LOUISVILLE, KY.:
CIVILL & CALVERT, PRINTERS.
1865.



18

REPORT

OF THE

LOUISVILLE

R E F U G E E

COMMISSION.



LOUISVILLE, KY.:
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1865.

*8503
Anti-Slavery Board of Penn.
April 13, 1868.*

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT,
JOHN H. HEYWOOD.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
D. P. HENDERSON.

RECORDING SECRETARY,
B. DUPONT.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
B. B. HUNTOON.

TREASURER,
J. L. DANFORTH.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
J. L. MCKEE, JOHN H. HEYWOOD,
D. P. HENDERSON, J. L. DANFORTH.

Louisville Refugee Commission.

At the regular meeting of the Commission, January 16th, 1865, the following paper, giving a sketch of the origin and history of the Louisville Refugee Commission, was read and ordered to be printed :

When the Refugees began to reach our city, there was no organization to meet and aid them. They came singly or in families, and made their way as best they could. Some of them were intelligent and industrious ; some brought a little money, clothing and furniture with them ; but the great majority were of the undeveloped, shiftless, aimless class, known as the poor whites of the South, and were utterly destitute of the means of support. The few, who were energetic, soon found work either in the city or vicinity, or passed on to the neighboring States. The others lingered around, ready to sink into hopeless, squalid pauperism.

As the number of the Refugees increased and their destitution revealed itself more fully, it became evident that some system should be adopted for their relief, and the Commander of the Post kindly took the responsibility of procuring a building as a temporary home for them, and furnishing them with rations. Marble Hall, on Fifth street, was the building taken for this purpose, and it was occupied for many months, almost always full, and sometimes crowded to suffocation. Some of the inmates remained for a night, some for a week, and some for a long time, seeming willing or even desirous to live on there

permanently, in unanxious dependence upon the bounty of the Government.

Under such circumstances—many of the Refugees being utterly destitute of all ideas of neatness and cleanliness, and many of them arriving in extremely feeble physical condition, their systems nearly worn out by long-continued exposure—it was inevitable that there should be much sickness and great mortality. Many touching, heart-rending scenes were witnessed by the few persons who visited the Hall and took a deep interest in its occupants. These visitors were principally ladies, and they worked indefatigably in behalf of the homeless wanderers, being aided in their kindly labors by the contribution of clothing and money by friends here and friends far away, many boxes of garments and several hundred dollars having been sent by generous Christian men and women in Boston and its vicinity. By the untiring efforts of these ladies, the inmates of the Hall were roused to exertion ; great improvement was made in the preparation and serving of the food, order and cleanliness in some measure supplanted chaos, and the sanitary condition steadily grew better.

Marble Hall at length was given up and the Home or Hospital removed to the building on Broadway, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, now known as Refugee Hospital, No. 2. A miserable building enough this is, but under the influences of fresh air, neatness, and the wise and kind medical care of Wm. S. Bailey, M. D., sickness in great measure disappeared. A matron was employed, who, besides exercising a general supervision over the inmates, taught the children daily ; religious exercises were begun and have been regularly held every Sabbath by Rev. Mr. Sadd and a Sunday-school established and kept up by him and Mrs. Sadd, both of whom have manifested from the beginning deep, affectionate, Christian interest in the Refugees.

The rapidly increasing number of Refugees, and the great demands made upon time and attention in assisting them, had shown the necessity of a regular and permanent association for relief. The Louisville Refugee Commission was accordingly organized April 5th, 1864. Its great purpose is to befriend the Refugees, and in a substantial, manly way, by helping them to find here and elsewhere, in city and country, opportunities for remunerative industry and the means of self-support; and, while keeping this purpose prominently, distinctly in view, to manifest the spirit of Christian friendship by clothing the destitute, ministering to the sick, and providing homes for the orphans and the helpless.

The large number of Refugees arriving in August last made another building necessary for their reception, and Captain Stephen E. Jones, who has taken a deep personal interest in them and has done all in his power to promote their well-being, set apart for their use the building on Broadway, below Tenth street, originally built as a hospital for the Military Prison, and Dr. Brown, Surgeon of the Military Prison, kindly, generously volunteered his medical services until Dr. Given was appointed physician to the Refugees. Afterwards a third building became necessary, which was obtained on Sixth street, between Main and the river.

The Commission has accordingly under its care three Hospitals for the Refugees:

No. 1, on Broadway, near Tenth street, of which Col. L. H. Ferrell is Superintendent;

No. 2, on Broadway, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, of which Mr. Oakes, a detailed soldier, has the care;

No. 3, on Sixth street, below Main, under the superintendence of Rev. W. S. Sedwick.

Colonel Ferrell is the agent for procuring rations and transportation.

Rev. Messrs. W. S. Sedwick and J. M. Sadd are the Commission's agents for visiting the Refugees, aiding them in obtaining work and taking charge of companies to points in this and the adjoining States where labor is in demand, the former gentleman devoting his whole time and the latter a large portion to the work.

Mr. Sadd took, in December last, one party of *eighteen* to Pendleton, Indiana, and another of *twenty* to Plainfield, in the same State, where the citizens received them kindly and have since offered to provide homes for more.

In the same month, Mr. Sedwick took *one hundred* to Eminence, Kentucky, where a lively interest was manifested and a Relief Committee formed. A similar Committee has been formed at Newcastle.

Mr. Sedwick has found homes in various portions of Kentucky for *sixty-two* orphans.

On the 30th of December, the Commission sent a company of *one hundred and twenty-five*, under the care of R. E. Farwell, Esq., Agent of the Nashville Commission, to Rockford, Illinois. The people showed the utmost kindness towards them, and in two days after reaching Rockford all of them were provided for, the country in that region having a great need of laborers.

Mr. Farwell's report of the journey to Rockford and of the reception of the Refugees is very interesting in itself, and as affording pleasing illustrations not only of the Christian kindness of that community, but of the cordial co-working of the humane Associations which the exigencies of this eventful period have called into being. It was in substance as follows:

That he left New Albany, Indiana, December 30th, at 9½ o'clock A. M., the company, consisting of one hundred

and twenty-five persons, filling two emigrant cars and having one car for furniture and baggage, and arrived safe in Chicago Saturday morning, the 31st. There one family, having a very sick child who subsequently died, was left in charge of some kind-hearted ladies connected with the Sanitary Commission, who promised to do all that was requisite for its comfort. By the kindness of Mrs. Livermore, Mrs. Hoge, and Mr. Bryan, the entire company was provided with food at the Soldiers' Rest and transportation furnished to the Rockford depot. Leaving Chicago at $9\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock P. M., the Refugees arrived in Rockford about 2 A. M. Sunday, and found the station-house warmed and lighted for their reception. Shortly after daybreak, the Mayor, with several clergymen of the city, conducted them to the court-house, where provisions came in rapidly. So many applications for help were received that before Tuesday noon all the Refugees were provided with homes. The expenses of the whole trip from Louisville, Ky., to Rockford, Ill., were \$519 65.

As at Eminence and Newcastle, so at Rockford and at Chicago, the presence of the Refugees has led to the formation of Associations to aid them. It is of great importance that such Associations be formed all over the country, that a kindly, intelligent interest may be awakened which shall insure to the Refugees seeking homes and employment friendly co-operation, and the free offering of religious and educational privileges to them and their children. The number of Refugees set adrift by the rebellion is so great, the movement having become like the migration of a tribe; their mental and moral conditions are so various, ranging from extreme ignorance, listlessness, and degradation up to intelligence, earnestness, and piety; the influences which they will exert as well as receive are so penetrating and diffusive, that the work of

caring for them and wisely assisting them becomes national in its range and importance, and appeals to the Christian conscience, the humanity, and the self-interest of our whole people. In one way or another, all should participate, and the highest good of all requires that the participation should be mainly personal and direct, rather than governmental. The Government has already burdens so heavy to bear and such momentous responsibilities to meet, that it seems unwise to ask it to undertake more in behalf of the Refugees than to provide rooms and rations and medical care and medicines for them at the points where they are received on their migration, and transportation thence to whatever part of the country it may be desirable for them to go. Whatever else remains to be done, it seems wise and patriotic to confide to the humanity and thoughtful charity of the people.

In December last, at the request of our Commission, a number of ladies consented to serve as a Committee to take charge of the clothing contributed for the relief of the Refugees, to superintend the making of garments, and to teach the girls sewing. Under the auspices of this Committee, a room has been obtained from the Trustees of the Public Schools in which the children will receive instruction not only in sewing but in reading and writing.

We have not the means of ascertaining the number of Refugees who have come to Louisville since the outbreak of the rebellion, but the report, presented by Colonel Ferrell, December 12th, 1864, shows the number received in the three and a half months preceding that date:

LOUISVILLE, December 12, 1864.

To the President and Members of the Refugee Relief Commission—

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to report that since the 1st of September last there have been received into the different Refugee Houses in this city *one thousand three hundred and sixty-five* persons, of whom fifty-three have died, and over five hundred have been provided with homes or sent to other parts of

the country, where they desired to go. In addition to this number, about *three thousand* Refugees have arrived in the city who have been furnished with rations and forwarded to other places.

The number received during the week ending the 10th inst. was 104, of whom 10 were sent to the mouth of Harrod's creek, 79 to places north of the Ohio river, and 15 taken into the Refugee Houses in this city. The number of deaths during the week was 5.

There are now in the city and vicinity, drawing rations through the Commission, 823 persons, of whom 114 are in Refugee Hospital No. 1, 57 in Refugee Hospital No. 2, 47 in Refugee Hospital No. 3, and of the other 615, many are scattered through the city, and some in New Albany and Jeffersonville.

Respectfully submitted by

L. H. FERRELL, Agent.

The number of Refugees in the city and vicinity who are now drawing rations, according to Colonel Ferrel's last weekly report January 14th, 1865, is 1,077. The number in the several Hospitals is—Hospital No. 1, 187; Hospital No. 2, 71; Hospital No. 3, 49.

It gives us pleasure to state that the responses to our circular sent forth during the past autumn have been prompt and generous. Friends in the city and neighborhood have kindly contributed, and friends at a distance—in Philadelphia, Burlington, N. J.; in New York, Syracuse, Onondaga, and other cities and villages in the State of New York; in Boston, Plymouth, Worcester, and other cities and towns in Massachusetts—have made liberal donations of money and garments. A condensed statement of receipts and expenditures will be made by our Treasurer, but we cannot forbear now alluding to one very munificent contribution, that made by the congregation worshiping at King's Chapel, Boston, amounting to \$1,505.

The American Union Commission, an Association formed in New York for the purpose of aiding the Refugees—an Association kindly in spirit, comprehensive in purpose, and wise in plan—has co-operated with our Commission

most heartily. It appreciates thoroughly the magnitude of the work to be done, the necessity of harmonious, systematic co-working by all who are interested in advancing the welfare of the Refugees, and it not only stands ready but is eager to do, and is doing, all that it can to bring the resources of the country to bear upon the solution of the great problem, and to aid, especially and directly, the Refugee Commissions along the border in the successful accomplishment of their work. Such co-operation is invaluable, and will always be gratefully received, we are sure, not only by the Refugee Commission of Louisville, but of Cincinnati, St. Louis, and all the cities whose position brings them within the range of the great migration.

This sketch showed the operations of our Commission up to the 16th of January, 1865. We were favored at our meeting on that day with the presence of two gentlemen of the American Union Commission of New York, Messrs. Hewitt and Merwin, delegated to visit the local Western Refugee Associations and to arrange with them for a comprehensive and systematic plan of operations. Our interview with these gentlemen was exceedingly pleasant, and the result of it was the expression of a desire by them, that Louisville should become the principal point of operations for the relief of Refugees coming from the South to points on the Ohio river above Cairo—all shipments of clothing and other supplies made from the Eastern States to come into our hands and by us to be distributed to such points and in such quantities as shall be required.

In order to carry out this work, we were authorized by them to employ an agent, to be appointed and paid by the American Union Commission, to visit places where the Refugees are gathered, ascertain what supplies they stand most in need of, and to arrange for their removal to homes

in the Northwest. Already a large number of packages of clothing have been received, and a house pleasantly arranged and conveniently situated has been obtained for the use of our local visiting agent, Rev. Mr. Sadd—whose duty, in conjunction with his wife, is to receive and assort the clothing so that orders may be promptly filled—and also for the use of the ladies who are kindly co-operating with our Commission in the manner mentioned above.

Another admirable Association, "The New England Refugees' Aid Society," recently organized and which is earnestly co-operating with the American Union Commission, has also voluntarily expressed, in most cordial manner, its desire to aid us in the great work. These tokens of deep interest and genuine sympathy are very gratifying and cheering. With such co-workers to assist and strengthen us, labor in behalf of the unfortunate becomes a privilege and a joy.

On the 23d day of January, 1865, a proposition made by the Jeffersonville (Ind.) Refugee Commission (to transfer the Hospital built by the Government at Jeffersonville for Refugees to the care of the Louisville Commission, and recommending that three citizens of the former city be chosen members of our Commission,) was acceded to, and Messrs. Crowe, Ewing and Pye were elected. These gentlemen were also appointed the Executive Committee of this Hospital, and M. Read, M. D., appointed Superintendent.

At the regular meeting held on January 30, 1865, the Executive Committee reported that, owing to the late fire which had destroyed the Hospital connected with the Military Prison, the Government had been compelled to resume possession of the building held by the Refugee Commission as Hospital No. 1, and, in consequence, the inmates had been transferred to other places. Through

the kindness of the Post Commandant, Colonel Coyl, a large three-story building on Fifth street, east side, between Walnut and Green, was taken as a Hospital, made as comfortable as circumstances would permit, and placed under the efficient medical supervision of Dr. Given. Fifty iron bedsteads and the same number of mattrasses were purchased, and over a thousand dollars worth of goods suitable to make up into comforts, sheets, &c., and of tinware and crockery were contributed by the citizens.

In addition to this, Brigadier-General Allen, Chief Quartermaster, had consented, through Captain Tucker, A. Q. M., to put up suitable buildings for the use of the Refugees upon such spot as might be agreed upon. The Committee decided that the ground connected with Hospital No. 2, on Broadway, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, was best adapted to the purpose, and Capt. Tucker at once commenced the erection of the necessary buildings, said buildings to include rooms for the reception and temporary lodging of destitute Refugees, a hospital, kitchen, dining-room, wash-room, and store-rooms for the care and safe keeping of articles of food and clothing.

The carpenters are going on vigorously and we have good reason to anticipate that by the 20th of March the Fifth-street Hospital will be given up and all departments of the Refugee work be concentrated on the commodious Broadway grounds. Here we desire that the destitute men, women, and children, whom a wicked rebellion has made homeless wanderers, may find during their brief sojourn kindly aid and care, may receive all the help which the preaching of the Gospel and the Sunday-school, the Week-day and Sewing-schools can afford them and thus be cheered and strengthened. But we would not give countenance to the idea that they are to remain and become dependents upon charity. Their own highest inter-

ests and the welfare of society demand that they be assisted to find places of permanent abode and opportunities for self-support as soon as possible, that they settle in industrious and kindly communities where hope will illuminate their hearts and homes, and the gloomy night of refugeeism pass away before the light of a new and a better day than they have ever known.

With the coming of the milder atmosphere of spring we shall direct our efforts unceasingly to the end of thus helping them to help themselves. We propose that our agents shall be constantly accompanying parties to the interior of this and the adjoining States, and ascertaining from personal observation the localities in which the Refugees will find cordial reception and the means of sustaining themselves and families. Within a few days Mr. Sedwick has gone with a company of 90 to Shelbyville, Ind., and Mr. Farwell with a party of 52 to Greensburg, Ind.

The following table, prepared from the weekly reports of Col. Ferrell, will show the number of Refugees received and sent away, the number in the several Hospitals, the deaths reported, and the total number, in and out of the Hospitals, drawing rations, from January 16th up to the present date. The returns for the week ending January 30th are incomplete, giving only the number of rations, in consequence of the confusion caused by the fire, which destroyed the Military Prison Hospital and necessitated the hurried removal of the inmates of Hospital No. 1 to other quarters :

	Jan. 23.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 6.	Feb. 13.	Feb. 20.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.
No. of Refugees received.....	47	.....	123	58	30	55	76
No. of " sent away.....	95	.....	40	298	32	59	130
No. of " in Hospital No. 1.....	137	.....	86	85	120	120	107
No. of " in Hospital No. 2.....	87	.....	43	43	20	37	46
No. of " in Hospital No. 3.....	70	.....	190	.....	63	.....	.....
No. of " in Jeffersonville Hospital.	150	.....	140	30	18	31	86
No. of Deaths reported.....	13	.....	28	13	13	8	5
Total No. drawing Rations.....	1404	1078	1000	1021	852	802	724

The number of garments distributed during the same period is shown by the following table prepared from Mrs. Sadd's weekly reports:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
	23.	6.	6.
	216	80	797
		571	669
		986	
		675	

For the larger portion of these most timely and acceptable contributions of clothing, the Commission is indebted to the American Union Commission.

The subjoined statement of the Treasurer shows the amount of money received and expended and the amount remaining on hand at date:

J. L. DANFORTH, Treasurer,

In account with REFUGEE RELIEF COMMISSION.

To Receipts September, 1864.....	\$1,678 90
To Receipts October.....	82 00
To Receipts November.....	806 00
To Receipts December	3,357 16
To Receipts January, 1865.....	1,675 35
To Receipts February.....	1,257 10
	<hr/>
	\$8,856 51

CREDIT.

By Expenditures September.....	\$ 326 07
By Expenditures October.....	1,294 31
By Expenditures November.....	355 05
By Expenditures December.....	1,480 89
By Expenditures January.....	1,812 76
By Expenditures February.....	2,318 24 7,587 32
	<hr/>
Balance in Treasury.....	\$1,269 19
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RECAPITULATION.

RECEIPTS.

Local Contributions.....	\$3,900 56
Donations from abroad.....	1,450 95
Donation from King's Chapel, Boston.....	1,505 00
Donation from the American Union Commission, New York.....	2,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$8,856 51

EXPENDITURES.

Salaries	\$1,615 98
Medical attendance.....	200 00
Current supplies.....	1,844 68
Fitting up Hospitals.....	1,860 68
Furnishing Ladies' Sewing Room.....	374 35
Freight on Clothing, &c.....	282 28
Transportation.....	1,029 35
Burial expenses.....	880 00
	7,587 32
	<hr/>
	\$1,269 19

J. L. DANFORTH, Treasurer.

LOUISVILLE, March 6, 1865.

Grateful to the warm-hearted friends, far and near, who have given money and clothing to aid and cheer the wanderers, we would earnestly seek their continued co-operation. For months to come, in all probability, the stream of refugee emigration will flow ceaselessly on. A great work remains to be done, and it must be the fervent desire and prayer of all Christians and patriots that it be done wisely, thoroughly, humanely. This work, whether we realize it or not, concerns us all, and sometimes it affects very nearly and very unexpectedly persons living so far away that they would seem to have no other tie binding them to the Refugees than that of our common humanity. Two orphan children, Lizzie and Willie, aged ten and thirteen years, recently came under the care of our Agent—to whom the Refugee children have been especially entrusted—Mr. Sedwick. They often spoke of two little brothers, George and James, who had been separated from them and had been carried they knew not whither. One evening while they were at the tea-table, Mr. Farwell came in from Nashville bringing a ragged boy of five years and, calling Lizzie and Willie to him, asked them to look at the child. As soon as the hat was taken from the little fellow they recognized him and exclaimed: "Oh,

it is our brother George." Few dry eyes were there in the room then, for children and all were in tears. "One thing," said Willie, when he had gained control of himself, "would have made me and Lizzie thankfuller than ever." "What is that, my child?" "If he had found the other one, too, down at Nashville." Earnest friends are searching for that other, little James, and it is hoped that he will soon be found. Those homeless wanderers are the children of a New England merchant, who many years since went South and married a North Carolina lady. Father and mother are dead, and three of them have thus been strangely brought together in the rooms of the Louisville Refugee Commission, by whom they will be sent to their uncle, W. M. S., near New Haven, Conn.; and some of the earliest, as well as some of the most generous contributions to this Commission, by which it has been enabled to find shelter and homes for the friendless and homeless, came from New England's noble-hearted men and women.

MARCH 6th, 1865.

